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361 must pass, the gate watch is placed. During the day the gates are continually open, but at nightfall they are closed and the keys delivered to the chief of police in charge, to avoid any sort of surprise through the carelessness or treachery of the guards at the gate. [196] In the gate halls mentioned above, in those regions which are still independent, the judges often take their places on bazaar days to administer justice to each one who has some sort of request. The punishments decreed are carried out in the same place, so that perhaps those criminals sentenced to hang will be hung upon the ceiling beams, and those visiting the bazaar must pass under them. When General von Kauffmann retreated from the rebellious town of Kokand, immediately after his departure, the Khan he had installed was stuck up like a pig in the bazaar, and when he regained control there for the second time /160/ he ordered the ringleaders to be hung in groups in all the gates of the town, as a horrible example.

In order to assure the safety of their town, the people of Tashkent not only built a very strong wall which was practically impregnable under Turkestan conditions., but they also installed a number [721] of observation posts outside the town. Since declarations of war were not the custom among the people of Turkestan, and the great art of the Turkestan battle leaders lay precisely in the execution of sudden and unexpected attacks in time of peace, the people of Tashkent built a number of artificial conical hills in the steppe, from twelve to fifteen meters high, on which various sentinels were placed, who were supposed to report the approach of enemies. These observation hills are usually found in pairs and are usually located in the even steppe where there are no suitable natural rises in the ground. They extend along the road to Fergana, from which Tashkent was most often exposed to surprise attacks, as far as the modern relay station Uralskaya, seventy kilometers from Tashkent.

Today the town wall of Tashkent, which no longer has any function, has fallen completely into decay, and on the east side, where the Sart and Russian towns meet, it has been entirely levelled because the material of the wall has been used by the Russians and the natives for brick-making.

Like all the towns of Turkestan, Tashkent once had an Urda(1)

1. In the towns inhabited by Tadzhiks, as, for example, Khodzhent/Leninbad/and Samarkand, the fortresses were designated by the name 'Ark' obviously the same root as the Latin arx. /citadel. /

*[Cf. cat #6, p. 8 -- Analyst]